

## MAJOR DOWNING.

We have just received the following Letter from our old friend Major Downing—and as it contains some timely and useful hints to office seekers, we delay not in presenting it to our readers. We could have hoped that his application at least would have found favor, but it seems that the Major realizes the old saying, that "the Shoemaker's wife is the worst shod woman in the Parish." However great our dependence on his philosophy, we have still greater in his patriotism in reconciling the General's advice to his own good sense,—and we trust the moral will not be lost.

LOG CABIN NORTH BEND,  
Dec. 3d, A. D., 1840.

To the Editors of the New York Express:

Ever since I sent you that Letter, telling you about the Fox Chase, I have had just as much as I could spring to, in helping the General read over petitions and applications for office. I thought, afore things got pretty sarting that we would carry the day, that these petitions came in considerable strong; but ever since it has been known that the General had won the battle, they have come in by bushel baskets full. And the General can tell 'em jest as quick as he sees the outside on 'em. "Bless me," says the General one day—"I wish, Major, that during the last war, when I wanted volunteers to follow me, that applications had been as numerous; but, however," says he, "We must look up and mark all these in regular order—for there is no telling yet how soon we may want men to defend the country; and having all these good names at hand, we can send to them, and tell them that, although I could not appoint them all, as collectors, and post masters, and land receivers, and marshals, and district attorneys, yet I hope, as they are all willing to serve the country, they will answer to their names at 'roll call.' And so I am making out a list, and if only the half on 'em toe the mark then, we shall make quick work against an enemy, when fighting times come. The most on 'em are the rare true blue democracy too,—for they say, in their petitions, they once was all Jackson and Van Buren men, but came round in good time and voted for the General, and ever since then go the entire Cider and Log Cabin, and no mistake. It is raly curious to see how some folks measure themselves, and get their friends to back 'em, assuring the General that in all creation round, he could not find a better man than this applicant for the office he asks, and about 500 asks for the same office. "Bless me, Major," says the General, "how things have altered since I first grew up! why," says he, "in them days a man of any kind of spunk and pride, would no more ask for an office than he would for cold vittles,—and the appointing power would jest as soon select a man to fill an office, who went round getting People to sign a petition for him, as a man would select the gal for his wife who brought him a long petition in her favor. However," says the General, "a good deal of this I am afraid has been encouraged by some of my late illustrious predecessors," who took a notion of keeping up their party, first by making times hard and distressing honest industry, and then, making folks work sharp and look for reward by seeking for an office."

I said to the General one day, says I General, I was thinking I might as well put in a petition myself for an office afore it is too late, for according to services says I—tho' I say it—I don't know any man who has done more work for nothing, than I have.

This seemed to puzzle the General considerably. He looked at me a spell, and then he scratched his head, and to rights he shook it, and says he, "Major, I don't know any man of your rank who has a bigger debt due him from his country than you have, and when folks say the public debt is paid off, they forget your claim; but it is a good investment as ever was, and I advise you to hold on to it—there is no telling what it may reach if you let it run on and don't ask any part on't principal or interest, to be paid off. Now if you take an office, it will make a considerable hole in it, and some folks may say, 'there is one big debt wiped out at last.' No, no, Major," says the General, "I can't afford to settle that debt, and part with you yet, for there is no telling what we may find to do when we get to Washington, and where your slate and ax may be wanted. In the first place we have to examine the inventory of all the property of the people, or make a new one of all we find there; hussle up matters in the Treasury, and count over all the hard currency in the iron chests of the Sub-Treasurers, look into matters in the Land Office, in the Post Office, and all the other offices, and see what is there and what is not there, and what ought to be there,—and especially to see if any of the folks now there have by any accident left any of their own money behind them, and have it paid to them, so that every honest man gets his dues; and the rogues (if there are any) may get their dues also. And after getting all these matters strait, then Major," says the General, "if you want an office, I'll see that you have one, and the best one I can advise you to take is, to watch your chance, and when you see a quarter section, well located, going off at minimum prices, cut in and take it—and if you haven't got the money to pay for it, I'll lend you; and then shoulder your ax, and build your own cabin, and dig your own diggings, and if your country calls on you to fight, shoulder your musket and go,—and there is no t-lling but the time may come when the People may drag you out of your retirement as they have me, and make you their President."

So that is pretty much all I have got to look for, and I thought I would tell it, jest to let a good many folks see what the General's notions are if they don't get an office; for it is jest as like as not, if he don't appoint them it is because he wants to keep them to cut a bigger figger hereafter.

Your friend,  
J. DOWNING, Major, &c. &c.

## THE VICEROY OF EGYPT.

Mehemet Ali was born in 1759, at Cavalia, and is now consequently seventy-one years of age. He is short in stature, but strong and still hale, or far from infirm. His fine forehead and hazel eyes deeply sunk in their sockets, his short moustache, flowing grey beard, and little mouth, make up an ensemble which, though it betrays cunning and finesse, yet, on the whole, gives him the appearance of a noble and amiable man. His hands and feet are remarkably well made, and what is very extraordinary for a Turk, he is incessantly pacing up and down his apartments. He is always remarkably clean and neat in his dress, but never wears any orders, nor any of those gorgeous decorations and embroideries which are so much in fashion amongst his countrymen. The viceroy is excessively passionate, and can but ill conceal the emotions by which for the time he is agitated; but he has much frankness and good faith and abhors dissimulation. Extremely sensitive on all points of honor, religiously faithful to his word, he is utterly incapable of committing a dishonorable action. His generosity is unbounded, and frequently borders on prodigality. He is reported to have been a very great admirer of the fair sex, but is an excellent father; and it is painful to witness his anguish when bereaved of any of his numerous children, or any person to whom he is attached. Glory is his god, and his whole life has been spent in endeavoring to shed a lustre on his name, and to leave behind him a glorious and unsullied reputation. He is very sensitive on the calumnies which the European papers have circulated about him, and causes all of them to be translated and read to him. Probably there is no man of his age who equals him in activity. He allows himself but a few hours repose; he rises at four, when he receives reports from his ministers, and dictates his answers. He then reviews his troops, and inspects his shipping and public works. He is endowed with a most wonderful clear-sightedness, which enables him to grapple with his subject, and instantly see the bottom of the most intricate question; and his unerring judgment renders him capable of forming the most just decisions on affairs with which he was previously unacquainted. Repeated illustrations of this are to be met with in the history of his long political career. Like Cassio, he is no arithmetician, but his calculations are always correct. He never learnt to read until he was forty-five, when he commenced studying with all the ardour of a youthful mind. The histories of Alexander and Napoleon were always his favorite subjects. He speaks no foreign language, but such is his perspicacity that, whilst conversing with Europeans, he frequently dispenses with the services of his interpreter, having gained from the eyes and gestures a tolerable correct idea of the subject on which they had been conversing. His great delight is to have some distinguished European or scientific person to converse with. He is religious without being a fanatic or a bigot. But he is the first Mussulman Sovereign who has afforded to Christians a sincere protection, which he has caused to be severely respected. Several Christians enjoy his friendship and confidence; he has given them ranks and commands, and raised them to the dignity of Bey. Thus, to soar above the deep-rooted prejudices of his court, and people, he has had to struggle against their intrigues and animadversions, when they were jealous of the favors which he bestowed on foreigners. His amusements are very simple and primitive—riding, and playing at chess or draughts with his officers and inferiors, and sometimes even with private soldiers. At both of these games he is remarkably skillful. With regard to his warlike qualities, it is only necessary to say that he rose to be what he is, from the ranks, by means of his courage & talents. His courage & fearless intrepidity have frequently hurried him into great danger. Even last year, notwithstanding his great age, he was seen undertaking a voyage to Fazogion, upwards of 1,000 leagues from his capitol, braving the rocks of the Nile, suffering shipwreck, swimming ashore, treating it as a joke, and pursuing his journey across the voiceless sands of the desert, mounted on a dromedary. Mehemet Ali is incontestibly one of the most remarkable men of the age.

## UNIFORM BANKRUPT LAW.

We have pleasure in announcing that Mr. Senator Crittenden yesterday reported, from the Committee on the Judiciary, a bill establishing a uniform system of Bankruptcy throughout the United States. It will, no doubt, gladden the heart of many an honest, enterprising, but unfortunate citizen, to learn that the attention of the Senate has been effectively called thus early to this important subject. Public opinion has been unequivocally and strongly declared through the press, in favor of the measure, and the tables of both Houses of Congress are loaded with petitions and memorials soliciting the immediate enactment of such a law.

Those who are acquainted with the details of the bill of last session, which, after passing the Senate, was laid low by the destructive spirit of Locofocoism in the House of Representatives, may be informed that the present measure is exactly the same as that bill, in all important respects. There are a few alterations—but they are very slight; and do not affect any principle.—*Madisonian*, Jan. 2.

THE MARK OF WISDOM: a stock of impudence without a blush—a deep frown so as to close the eyes—a frequent clearing of the throat in order to prepare the way for a quantity of thoughts and precious sentences—a nod of the head and a laugh, a straddling like a Colossus; whenever you are asked a question adopt all these, and you are as sure to be taken for a man of profound learning, as a man labelled an ass, is sure to be asked to bray.

Why is a lady's gown about the waist, like a camp-meeting? Because there is a great gathering there.

A BOTTOMLESS LAKE.—The following is the first notice which we have ever met with of a very remarkable pond, in Saratoga county New York. If the following account, taken from the Troy Mail, be true, it discloses a curious natural phenomenon:

"White Lake is situated about a mile west of the Pauls Kill in the town of Still-water. It is nearly circular. It has no visible inlet, but its outlet is a never failing stream of considerable magnitude. The name is derived from its appearance. Viewed from a little distance, it seems of a milky whiteness, except a few rods in the centre, which, by the contrast, appears perfectly black. The appearance itself is singular enough, but the cause is still more remarkable.

From the centre or dark portion of the lake, at stated seasons, innumerable quantities of shells are thrown up of various sizes and forms, but all perfectly white. These float to the shore and are thrown upon the beach, or sink into shallow water. Hundreds of bushels might be gathered from the shore after one of these periodical uprisings; and the whole soil for several rods on every side of the lake is composed of these shells, broken or decomposed by the action of the weather. In the centre of the lake, bottom has never been found, although it has been sounded to the depth of several hundred feet.

Where then is the grand deposit from which has been swelling since the memory of man the countless myriads of untenanted shells? Is it possible that though far remote at an elevation of several hundred feet above them, this bottomless well may, by some subterranean communication, be connected with the grand shell marl deposit in the eastern part of the State?"

## THE PIONEER.



CARROLLTON, FEBRUARY 1, 1841.

## OUR LEGISLATURE.

We regret to learn that our Legislature in its wisdom, has passed a bill prohibiting the publication of Sheriff's Sales in Newspapers. We have no doubt the Legislature, anxious to curtail as much as possible the expenses in all departments of State, intended by this Bill relief to debtors and defendants, by exonerating them from the costs of publication, &c.—But when we say this, we are simply doing justice to their motives, at the expense of their intelligence—for we are well assured that upon experience, the operation of such an act will be found far more injurious to the best interests of both debtor and creditor, than the paltry sum of a few dollars cost for publication. The act provides that written notices shall be posted up by the Sheriff, in three of the most public places of the county, thus throwing the whole responsibility of publication upon the Sheriff and his Deputies.

The experience of the past should have taught the Legislature that a large majority of the Sheriff's of Mississippi, have not given cause of gratulation for the promptness and fidelity with which they discharged the duties of their office. In this county, it is true, we have had no cause of complaint against the Sheriff; but then he is acknowledged to be one of the very best officers in the State. In the numerous litigated actions relative to real property, that must necessarily arise from its present embarrassed condition, the proof of title by legal sale by the Sheriff, will be one of the most numerous defences set up, and to make that sale valid, the proof of notice, such as was contemplated by the late statute will be requisite. Then it is clear that the production of the paper containing the publication of the will of course be the highest evidence of legal notice of sale, that the case admits of.—The effect of the recent or present act, will be to reduce the grade and value of evidence admissible in such cases, and consequently to diminish the confidence of our citizens in their titles to real property in Mississippi, and therefore affect its stability—since no evidence of notice of sale can be produced, higher than the assertion of the officer. Again, notice of sale under the present act must of necessity be more limited and partial, than when it was published in a newspaper; the attendance at public sales will of course be smaller, and the competition being less, it follows that the price of property will be less. Will not the loss to the defendant or debtor, from the reduced sale of his property, be much greater than the cost of a few dollars for publication? We have often been asked for a Newspaper, containing notices of Sheriff's Sales. A paper that has any circulation, must multiply these notices in proportion to its circulation. The bill then tends to diminish the notice of Sheriff's Sales—and we now ask, what was the object in diminishing this notice? Let them answer who can.

But again, another consideration in connection with this matter, forces itself upon our attention. In making amendments or innovations upon the Statutes of a State, the Legislature should consider the remote and possible, as well as the proximate and probable effects of such amendment. Now to every reflecting mind it is obvious, that the recent law will open the door to vast frauds in the sale of property, since it will put it in the power of an interested person to tear down these notices, or the officer to place the notice in an unfrequented or obscure part of the county, and thus defeat the obvious intent of the law. But it is supererogation to expose all the fallacies of this act, or point to the open and palpable abuses to which it is subject. For ourselves, we frankly declare, that we consider the act as impolitic, unjust, and injurious to the best interests of our citizens.—Upon reflection, we cannot but admit that too much Legislation is a curse, and we are almost tempted to exclaim with the epigraph of the "Globe," "The World is governed too much."

The art of coloring marble has been carried to great perfection of late. A solution of nitrate of gold, dies it a beautiful violet colour; verdigris produces a green. Dragon's blood a fine red—Orpiment dissolved in ammonia give a fine gold colour, and the dye-wood generally dissolved in alcoholic tinctures all produce a ready and permanent colour. Wax as a solvent penetrates farthest into marble. Verdigris boiled in wax and applied hot, penetrates half an inch, and produces a fine emerald.

We see by the Nashville Republican that Evans' Safety Valve effectually guards against the possibility of explosion by steam. The public interest and public voice demands that it shall be adopted by our Steam-boat owners; They must use it.

## GEORGIA, vs. MAINE.

The Legislature of Georgia has recently passed a bill which has by the signature of the Governor, now become a law of the State, requiring all vessels sailing from any port in Maine, to perform quarantine for forty days. The bill authorizes the Governor to suspend, by Proclamation, the operation of the law, whenever the Governor of Maine shall comply with the requisitions of Georgia, by delivering up to the Executive of the latter State, the Captain and crew of a vessel, charged with the abduction of slaves from Savannah.

## WAR, AND RUMORS OF WARS.

The Portland Advertiser has an interesting article on the subject of the disputed territory of Maine,—and entertains the deliberate opinion that a rupture with England is now almost a matter of necessity. The British authorities are concentrating their forces in the heart of the disputed territory—making military roads to the St. Lawrence, and entrenching themselves firmly upon the soil.—The report of Featherstonhaugh, so palpably false, uncandid and absurd, seems to favor the idea that England, determined to possess that country, intends amusing the U. S. Government with diplomatic finesse, until she has established herself in the territory, when she will throw off the mask and proclaim her intentions to keep it at all events whether entitled to it or not, and bid defiance to the credulous Government that she had duped so successfully.

The funeral ceremony of depositing the remains of Napoleon in the Dome des Invalids, was fixed to take place on the 10th December last. The Prince de Joinville had arrived with the body at Cherbourg on the 30th November.

THE ADMINISTRATION.—The "Madisonian" dares the Globe to deny that the present Administration (Van Buren) has spent thirty-three millions five hundred thousand dollars over and above the accruing revenue for the same period.

## BENTON, vs. CALHOUN.

It is said that these two worthies hate each other with a rancorous and inveterate hatred. They lose no opportunity of denouncing each other to their respective friends. The fact is they are both aspirants to the Presidency, and stand in each other's way. They both seek a nomination for that office, and the nomination of Van Buren for 1844 is all stuff—humbug—for the purpose of deception. Benton will be the loco-foco candidate for the Presidency in 1844. We deliberately make the prediction. Mark it.

Mr. Van Buren continues to fill vacancies and make appointments, although he is a defeated candidate, his policy and principles condemned by the American People, and his successor about to occupy his place in the Administration of the Government. Apart from the indelicacy of such a course, it is unjust to his successor and the People—they have had enough of his appointments to office.

By the Correspondent of the Louisville Journal, we learn that the following resolution having previously passed the Senate has passed to a third reading in the House of Representatives of the Indiana Legislature: "Be it Resolved by the General Assembly of

the State of Indiana, That the establishment of a National Bank with such capital and such power, under such restrictions as will render it a safe and convenient instrument for the receipt, keeping and disbursement of the public money, and as will enable it to afford a safe and convenient paper currency, as well as a moderate and regular system of domestic exchanges, is within the Constitutional power of the General Government and proper and expedient."

## APPROPRIATE.

From the Nashville Republican we learn that the Knoxville Register proposes erecting a monument to the memory of Hon. HUGH LAWSON WHITE. We like the idea. If ever the private virtues that adorn and dignify humanity, beautiful in their stern and simple grandeur, deserved a demonstration of public sentiment in proportion to their appreciation, then will a magnificent mausoleum arise to the memory of that great man, and the American people will pronounce his eulogium. The conclusion of the article is truly eloquent and just.

"Ancient Greece erected her monuments to perpetuate some bloody trophy of the sword, but we, more just, make our offering to the civic virtues. Who deserves it more than Hugh L. White? A man whose life was a beautiful exemplification of the virtues which adorn humanity—a patriot, who forgot not his country at the bidding of party;—whose integrity was equally above the temptations of office, and the allurements of ambition."

The Louisville Journal, in reviewing part of the late Message of the Governor of Mississippi, has the following remarks, which we commend to the attention of our readers, as forming a fair specimen of the opinions created abroad by the perusal of that notable document. But to the Journal.

"There is another topic discussed in the Message that concerns most deeply the Honor of Mississippi. In August 1838, five millions of the State Bonds of Mississippi were disposed of by the Mississippi Union Bank for five millions of dollars, payable in five equal instalments. The United States Bank of Pennsylvania guaranteed to the Union Bank the regular payment of the instalments, and Gov. McNutt says that the purchase of bonds was undoubtedly made by the United States Bank and with her funds. Thereupon his Excellency contends that the United States Bank had no power by her charter to make the purchase, and that therefore the State of Mississippi, notwithstanding her plighted faith, ought to refuse to redeem the bonds, even though they may have passed into the hands of innocent purchasers. Such a proposition, assumed by the Governor of a State, is a disgrace to the State itself. The People of Mississippi should scorn the doctrine and its authors."

MICHIGAN.—Governor Wood in his Message to the Legislature of Michigan, recommends to that body the propriety of their adopting a joint resolution in favor of a National Bank. It is said to be a sound and able document.

We learn from the Louisville Journal that the N. Y. American, after a careful examination of the debts and assets of the United States Bank, expresses the opinion that the Bank "can and will resume specie payments."

Resolutions have been introduced into the N. Y. Legislature among others, asserting that the President shall be incompetent to remove incumbents from office, but may not cause suspend them until the next meeting of Congress.

Glenworth, the New York Tobacco Inspector, has been removed from office by the Governor.

The Hon. John Holmes, of Maine, reviews in a thorough and caustic manner, the exparte and fallacious report of Messrs. Mudge and Featherstonhaugh, British Commissioners in the North Eastern boundary of Maine.

Gov. ROMAN, in his Message to the Louisiana Legislature, recommends the passage of a registry law—also moderate legislation with respect to the Banks of that State. Had the war of proscription been waged with half the earnestness and ferocity upon the Louisiana Banks, that has by the blessings of Providence and Alexander G. McNutt, visited our institutions, they would have been in a worse condition to-day than many of the Banks of Mississippi. But unfortunately for them, they have not been blessed with such a Governor as ours.

## THE WEATHER.

Our climate seems to have undergone a radical and frightful change—from being one of the most cheerful sunny laughing climates in the world—it has turned like a spoiled child into pouting and frowning and weeping, until we fear it has become a confirmed habit.—Never have we seen such a perverse and disagreeable climate as ours, since the first of January. We verily believe there has been but one entirely fair day this year. It would